

Message Text

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ACTION NSF-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 OES-05 NAS-01 L-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4037

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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TOKYO FOR NSF

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EGEN, RP

SUBJECT: VISITS BY NSF AND NAS REPS AND PROPOSED TECHNICAL AND
SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT WITH GOP

REF: A) STATE 089963 B) STAGE 093183 C) STATE 099945 D) MANILA 3497

SUMMARY: EMBASSY FOUND VISIT OF NSF REP OF GREAT VALUE IN
BETTERING CONTACTS WITH SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY. EMBASSY ALSO
FOUND PROPOSED COOPERATIVE PLAN AS DISCUSSED BY HOLT TO BE
MOST INTERESTING. AT SAME TIME, JOHN HURLEY OF NATIONAL
ACADEMY OF SCIENCE WAS IN MANILA AND DURING EMBASSY CALL
DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF INFORMAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN NAS AND
PHILIPPINE NATIONAL SCIENCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD WHICH EMBASSY
BELIEVES MAY BE MERITORIOUS IF NOT MADE OVERLY AMBITIOUS.
BOTH NSF AND NAS REPS AGREED THAT PROPOSED TECHNICAL AND
SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT AS SUGGESTED EMBASSY DRAFT WOULD SERVE
USEFUL PURPOSE, AGAIN, PROVIDED AGREEMENT IS LEFT IN BROAD
LANGUAGE AND SPECIFICS ARE EXCLUDED. END SUMMRY.

1. VISIT OF DR. ALLEN HOLT OF NSF WAS MOST WELCOME AND,
EMBASSY BELIEVES, MOST PRODUCTIVE IN HELPING KEEP ABREAST OF
SOMEWHAT SHIFTING SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY IN THE
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PHILIPPINES. MUCH OF SUCCESS OF VISIT OWED TO HOLT'S

GRASP OF PHILIPPINE DEVELOPMENTS AND HIS ABILITY TO
EXPOUND NSF PROPOSALS IN CLEAR AND PRECISE MANNER.

2. HOLT IN CONVERSATION WITH NSDB CHAIRMAN MEDINA
EXPLORED IDEA OF POSSIBLE BILATERAL FOR TECHNICAL AND
SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION. BOTH AGREED AGREEMENTS BEST
IF LOOSE AND NO ENTRENCHED BUREAUCRACY IS ESTABLISHED
UNDER TERMS. MEDINA INDICATED NSDB WOULD BE ANXIOUS TO
FOLLOW UP ON PROPOSAL FOR NSF-NSDB COOPERATION AS OUTLINED
BY HOLT.

3. HOLT TOLD ACTING DCM THAT HE FINDS NO PROBLEMS WITH
PROPOSED DRAFT (REF D) BUT THAT NSF IN PRINCIPLE SHIES
FROM BILATERALS WITH HIGHLY FORMALIZED PROCEDURES,
ESPECIALLY IF AGREEMENT SEEKS TO BIND EITHER PARTY
TO SPECIFIC LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE.

4. BY CHANCE, HOLT AND EMBOFF MADE CONTACT WITH HURLEY
OF NAS WHO WAS INVITED TO CALL AT EMBASSY TO DISCUSS HIS
ORGANIZATION'S PROGRAMS IN PHILIPPINES. HURLEY SAID
HE TRAVELS TO PHILIPPINES AT LEAST THREE TIMES A YEAR AND
CONTACTS AID OFFICIALS. HE TOLD ADCM THAT HE, ON BEHALF
OF NAS, HAS BEEN DISCUSSING POSSIBILITY OF AN INFORMAL
AGREEMENT WITH NSDB.

5. AGREEMENT, WHICH WOULD PROBABLY BE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS,
WOULD PROVIDE FOR CONSULTATION ON TYPE OF ASSISTANCE NAS
WOULD BE WILLING TO PROVIDE NSDB. WHILE NOTHING GRANDIOSE
IS FORESEEN SUCH A VEHICLE MIGHT BE USEFUL IN HELPING
PHILIPPINE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY MAKE CONTACT WITH
AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS AND IF HANDLED PROPERLY COULD
COMPLIMENT NSF PROGRAM AND PROPOSED BILATERAL.

6. HURLEY WAS ASKED TO KEEP EMBASSY INFORMED OF PROGRESS
ON NAS-NSDB DISCUSSIONS AND URGED TO LET EMBASSY KNOW OF
FUTURE VISITS.

7. COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED:

EMBASSY BELIEVES HOLT VISIT HELPED REESTABLISHED CONTACTS
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IN PHILIPPINE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY, WHICH, BECAUSE OF FACT
EMBASSY HAS NO SCIENCE ATTACHE AND DUE TO PRESS OF OTHER
MATTERS, IS SOMETIMES SOMEWHAT NEGLECTED. HOLT WAS MOST
IMPRESSIVE SPOKESMAN OF NSF AND IT IS URGED THAT, WHEN
TIME ALLOWS, NSF TOKYO REPS ALSO MAKE VISITS TO MANILA.
IT IS ALSO REQUESTED THAT, IF POSSIBLE, DEPARTMENT ARRANGE
WITH NAS TO INFORM EMBASSY OF VISITS OF ITS REPS TO MANILA
AND THAT REPS MAKE CONTACT WITH ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION

DURING TIME HERE. FOR ITS PART, EMBASSY WILL SEEK TO KEEP
GOP FOCUSED ON PROPOSED DRAFT OF BILATERAL, ALBEIT NOT
ATTEMPTING TO PUSH GOP ANY FASTER THAT IT ALREADY SEEMS
PREPARED TO MOVE.

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